

Adopted: 2013-06-15

WEAPONS POLICY

Preamble

The Board of Directors believes that students, staff and visitors have the right to pursue their affairs in a safe and protective environment. The Board considers the possession or use of any weapon by anyone, other than a peace officer, on or near school premises, on fieldtrips, or at school events, to be a serious threat to the safety and security of students and staff.

The definition of a weapon is:

- a) anything used, designed to be used, or intended for use in causing death or injury to any person or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes any firearm or any device prohibited or restricted under the Criminal Code of Canada.
- b) anything that is a replica, facsimile, imitation or toy designed or intended to replicate the foregoing
- c) anything else that, in the opinion of the principal or vice-principal, is potentially dangerous in the hands of a particular student or in a particular situation.

Policy

Possession of a weapon on or near school premises is a threat to the safety and security of students and staff and is to be interpreted as a clear violation of the Code of Conduct. Students shall not possess, display or use any weapon, except as otherwise approved by the principal, on any school premises, school bus or contracted transport or at any activity off school premises that is organized or sponsored by a school. The Board directs all school personnel who believe that such a threat exists to take appropriate action in accordance with the following administrative procedures to ensure the safety of both students and staff.

Administrative Procedures

1. Management of Risk

When a school administrator or staff member reasonably believes that a person traveling to and from school or on or near school premises, without lawful reason,

- a) is in possession of a weapon on his or her person or in any other place at or near the school, or
- b) has used such a weapon for the purposes of intimidation or assault;

the Board directs that the situation be treated with the utmost seriousness, that the principal be informed and that the principal or when appropriate, a staff member, shall as expeditiously as possible, within the discretion granted under Sections 6, 85 of the School Act.

- a) make all reasonable attempts to minimize the risk of injury to any other person,
- b) notify the police if that action is deemed appropriate
- c) attempt to ensure that the weapon is controlled and
- b) confiscate and/or arrange with the appropriate authority to have the weapon remove from the school premises or surroundings. Any weapons seized shall be considered forfeited.

2. Report of Incident

Once the safety of the students and staff is ensured, the principal:

- a) may, report the matter to the local law enforcement authorities and if appropriate seek their assistance, if not previously requested;
- b) shall, as soon as is practicable, notify the parent or guardian of any student involved in the situation;
- c) shall, report the matter to parents of all students in the school if there is a possibility of ongoing threat;
- d) shall, make an immediate oral report of the situation to the Chair of the Board;
- e) shall, as soon as is practicable, prepare a written report . Every effort should be made to include appropriate detail of the person or persons involved, the situation, processes and procedures used and the evidence gathered, all of which may be required to support charges.

3. Disciplinary Action

If a weapon is in the possession of, is used by, or attempted to be used by a student, thereby threatening the school environment and the safety of students and staff, the Board directs the principal to consider immediate suspension/expulsion of that student, pending further disciplinary action or criminal charges. If a parent is unhappy with the disciplinary action given by the Principal, the parent may appeal such a decision to the Board in writing and an appeal hearing will be held by the Board to review the case with the parent, student and Principal in attendance.

4. Weapon Possession Approved by the Principal

The Principal may use discretion in approving the use of objects that are defined as weapons for such activities as drama and theatrical productions, archery activities, outdoor education activities and Remembrance Day observances.

Such objects shall be stored appropriately when not required for such productions, activities and observances.